

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 20th February 1892.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Ahmadî"	Tangail, Mymensingh	600	
2	"Kaliyuga"	Calcutta	.....
3	"Kasipore Nivâsi"	Kasipore, Burrisal	280	
4	"Navamihir"	Ghatail, Mymensingh	500	
5	"Uluberia Darpan"	Uluberia	700	
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>				
6	"Hitakari"	Kushtea	800	12th February 1892.
<i>Weekly.</i>				
7	"Bangavâsi"	Calcutta	20,000	13th ditto.
8	"Banganivâsi"	Ditto	8,000	12th ditto.
9	"Burdwân Sanjivani"	Burdwan	335	9th ditto.
10	"Châruvârtâ"	Sherepore, Mymensingh	400	8th ditto.
11	"Dacca Prakâsh"	Dacca	2,200	14th ditto.
12	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	825	12th ditto.
13	"Grâmvâsi"	Ramkristopore, Howrah	1,000	15th ditto.
14	"Hindu Ranjikâ"	Beauleah, Rajshahye	212	10th ditto.
15	"Hitavâdî"	Calcutta	.....
16	"Murshidâbâd Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	.....	5th and 12th February 1892.
17	"Navayuga"	Calcutta	500	11th February 1892.
18	"Prakriti"	Ditto	.....	13th ditto.
19	"Pratikâr"	Berhampore	609	5th ditto.
20	"Prithivi"	Calcutta	.....
21	"Rungpur Dikprakâsh"	Kakinia, Rungpur	.....	4th ditto.
22	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	800-1,000	10th ditto.
23	"Sahayogi"	Burrisal	342	
24	"Sakti"	Dacca	.....
25	"Samâj-o-Sâhitya"	Garibpore, Nuddea	1,000	14th ditto.
26	"Samaya"	Calcutta	3,000	12th ditto.
27	"Sanjivani"	Ditto	4,000	13th ditto.
28	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong	.....	5th ditto.
29	"Sâraswat Patra"	Dacca	300	13th ditto.
30	"Som Prakâsh"	Calcutta	600	15th ditto.
31	"Srimanta Sadagar"	Ditto	.....
32	"Sudhâkar"	Ditto	3,100	12th ditto.
33	"Sulabh Samâchar"	Ditto	.....
<i>Daily.</i>				
34	"Banga Vidyâ Prakâshikâ"	Calcutta	500	12th, 13th, 15th & 16th February 1892.
35	"Bengal Exchange Gazette"	Ditto	.....	12th, 17th, and 18th ditto.
36	"Dainik-o-Samâchâr Chandrikâ"	Ditto	1,000	14th to 18th ditto.
37	"Samvâd Prabhâkar"	Ditto	1,500	11th to 13th, and 15th to 17th February 1892.
38	"Samvâd Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	12th, 13th & 15th to 18th Feb. 1892.
39	"Sulabh Dainik"	Ditto	.....	12th, 13th, 16th and 18th February 1892.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
Weekly.				
40	"Dacca Gazette"	Dacca ... ..	.....	8th February 1892.
HINDI.				
Monthly.				
41	"Darjeeling Mission ke Māsik Samāchār Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	50	
42	"Kshatriya Patrikā"	Patna ...	250	
Weekly.				
43	"Aryāvarta"	Calcutta ...	750	11th ditto.
44	"Behar Bandhu"	Bankipore ...	500	
45	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta ...	1,200	
46	"Champarun Chandrika"	Bettiah ...	350	
47	"Desī Vyāpārī"	Calcutta ...	.....	15th ditto.
48	"Hindi Bangavāsī"	Ditto ...	.....
49	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto ...	500	
50	"Uchit Baktā"	Ditto ...	4,500	
URDU.				
Weekly.				
51	"Al Punch"	Bankipore ...	.....
52	"Anis"	Patna ...	.....
53	"Calcutta Punch"	Calcutta ...	.....
54	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide"	Ditto ...	340	12th ditto.
55	"General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto ...	.....	15th ditto.
56	"Mehre Monawar"	Mozufferpore ...	.....
57	"Raisul-Akhbari-Moorshidabad"	Murshidabad ...	150	
58	"Setare Hind"	Arrah ...	.....
URIYA.				
Monthly.				
59	"Asha"	Cuttack ...	165	January 1892.
60	"Echo"	Ditto ...	.....
61	"Pradīp"	Ditto ...	.....
62	"Samyabadi"	Ditto ...	.....
63	"Taraka and Subhavartā"	Ditto ...	.....
64	"Utkalprāna"	Mohurbhunj ...	.....	November and December 1891 and January 1892.
Weekly.				
65	"Dipaka"	Cuttack ...	.....	14th, 21st, and 28th January and 4th February 1892.
66	"Samvad Vāhika"	Balasore ...	200	
67	"Uriya and Navasamvād"	Ditto ...	420	13th and 27th January and 3rd February 1892.
68	"Utkal Dīpikā"	Cuttack ...	420	16th, 23rd and 30th January, and 6th February 1892.
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
Fortnightly.				
69	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet ...	480	12th February 1892.
70	"Silchar"	Silchar ...	500	
Weekly.				
71	"Srihatta Mihir"	Sylhet ...	332	

(I)—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

THE *Murshidabad Pratinidhi*, of the 5th February, says that a daring theft attended with murder was committed on the 3rd January last in Saurup-pur in Murshidabad under the eyes of the police. But the police has not, up to this time, been able to trace out the offender.

MURSHIDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
Feb. 5th, 1892.

Theft and murder in Saurup-pur in Murshidabad.

2. A correspondent of the *Sudhakar*, of the 12th February, has the following recommendations about the constitution and duties of village punchayets:—

SUDHAKAR,
Feb. 12th, 1892.

- (1) The punchayets should be elected.
- (2) They should be entrusted with the investigation of petty offences committed in the villages under their jurisdiction.
- (3) They should be empowered to levy, along with the chowkidari tax, a tax for the construction of roads and bridges, for the excavation of tanks, for the clearing of jungle, and for other works needed for the improvement of the public health. Or, they may be empowered to levy the road cess and the public works cess and apply the proceeds to these works.
- (4) The fee of the punchayet who will collect the tax should be increased, or he should be allowed a fixed salary from some Government fund.
- (5) The chowkidar should report the work done by him to the punchayets, and the latter should record that report.
- (6) The punchayets should exercise proper control over the chowkidar.
- (7) The chowkidar should be allowed increased salary, and arrangements should be made to get proper work out of him.
- (8) The ablest among the punchayets should be appointed to inspect from time to time the work done by his brother punchayets.
- (9) The Police Inspector or some higher authority should inspect the work of the punchayets at least three or four times in the year. Arrangements should also be made for the preservation of the peace in the villages under the jurisdiction of the punchayets.
- (10) Severe penalty should be provided for any illegal act that may be done by the punchayets.
- (11) The authority of the punchayets should be increased in proportion as they work well.

Government should remember that all important investigations are conducted by common people in this country, and that the punchayets can do no good work at present only because they possess no power.

3. Another correspondent of the same paper complains that the dacoits who robbed Madar Bux Shah, an inhabitant of Dinajpur, have not yet been traced by the police.

SUDHAKAR.

A dacoity in Dinajpur.

It is requested that the police officers may exercise proper control over the village chowkidars who do not properly go on rounds.

4. The *Prakriti*, of the 13th February, notices a dacoity in the house of one Isvari Bewa of Baraipur in the 24-Pergunnahs district. The dacoity took place on the night of the 22nd January last, but the dacoits still remain untraced. The list of stolen goods which Isvari sent to the thana includes a *garu*, and though a *garu* has been found within three miles from her house, the police have not been able to trace the dacoits. Probably the police will, after this, report the occurrence as false. The constables here do not go on their rounds properly, and many complaints are heard in this connection. The authorities should look to this matter.

PRAKRITI,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

Dacoity at Baraipur in the 24-Pergunnahs district.

5. Referring to the case of alleged suicide committed by a Hindu lady in Kalighat, the *Sanjivani*, of the 13th February, says that in these serious matters complete reliance ought not to be placed on inferior police officers for investigation. The investigation in the present case ought to be conducted by

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

A case of alleged suicide in Kalighat.

some high officer, aye, by Mr. Lambert personally. Seeing how such cases of suicide are on the increase, a strict enquiry ought to be made.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Feb. 14th, 1892.

6. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 14th February, says that the chowkidar of the village Dhamrai, within the jurisdiction of thana Sabhar, having fallen ill, the village punchayet asked him to take leave. But as he declined to do so, the punchayet appointed a man to officiate for him for three months, and sent the latter to the thana with the letter of appointment, which was signed there by the Sub-Inspector of Police. The first chowkidar in the meantime applied for leave, and in collusion with the writer-constable caused his application to be sent to the District Superintendent of Police, who sent a man to officiate for him. The punchayet then addressed the District Superintendent on the subject stating the facts of the case. For two months no reply was obtained, and after that time it became necessary to pay the salary of the chowkidar. The punchayet sent a second report to the District Superintendent asking for orders as to which of the two men should receive the chowkidar's salary. Thereupon the District Superintendent ordered the payment of salary to his own man. It is in this way that the police overrides the law and insults the punchayet. The District Magistrate is asked to enquire.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

SANSODHINI,
Feb. 5th, 1892.

7. The *Sansodhini*, of the 5th February, has learnt from a correspondent in Nizampore that although the fee for making a proclamation of sale by beat of drum is four annas in other munsifis, it is eight annas in the Sitakund Munsifi. The District Judge ought to take notice of this anomaly. This distinction is quite unreasonable, and the editor can hardly believe the correspondent's statement.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 9th, 1892.

8. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 9th February, has learnt that, on the occasion of his recent visit to Burdwan, the Lieutenant-Governor inspected the Civil Court record-office. And as some records of the Court of the First Munsif were found among those of the Courts of other Munsifs, the record-keeper incurred His Honour's displeasure, and has been dismissed by his order. But the offence of this man was not a very grave one. Besides, he is ready to offer an explanation as to how the records of different Courts came to be kept in the same place. His Honour is requested to take the explanation before dismissing an old servant of Government.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

9. A correspondent of the same paper says that much inconvenience has been caused to suitors in consequence of the heaviness of the file in the Court of the Munsif of Ranigunge. Government is earnestly entreated either to send an additional Munsif to Ranigunge, or to establish a Munsif's Court at Ukhra. The adoption of the latter course will prove most advantageous to suitors on the bank of the Ajay, for they will be spared the trouble of a journey on foot to Ranigunge, which is some 20 miles distant from their villages.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Feb. 12th, 1892.

10. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide*, of the 12th February, says that, on the retirement of Justice Tottenham, of the Calcutta High Court, the vacancy ought to be filled either from the Calcutta Bar or from the judicial service of this province.

(c)—Jails.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Feb. 14th, 1892.

11. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 14th February, has the following on the jail administration in India:—

It is seen from the jail report that in the Dacca Central Jail the average annual earning of each prisoner amounted to Rs. 6-4 last year. Now, if the prisoners had worked freely, they could have earned at least Rs. 100 annually. From this it is clear that very little real work is done in the jails. These thieves, dacoits and other budmashes ingratiate themselves with the

jail officers, and by that means manage to evade hard labour, which has to be done by the timid, inoffensive prisoners. Moreover, they appropriate to themselves the best part of the food given to the prisoners. Thus, in the jail, the habitual criminal has an easy time of it, while the men who have been sent there for acts done in a fit of excitement, or on false charges supported by lying witnesses, suffer most. Again, the same kind of food is given to all classes of prisoners in disregard of the fact that food which suits low class prisoners is execrable to those coming from respectable classes. Mortality among prisoners is highest during the second six months after admission. This is explained by the fact that their health continues to break down during the first six months, and this breakdown is followed by death during the next six months. That death-rate among prisoners becomes low after their stay in jail for a year is because after a year the prisoners become habituated to the food which is supplied in the jail. Prisoners of respectable classes leave jail with a shattered constitution and die on their return home, and so the number of deaths among them finds no place in the list of jail mortality. Residence in jail is death to prisoners of respectable classes. If the object of Government is to kill the prisoners, why does it not hang them outright instead of killing them by degrees. The measures proposed by the Jail Conference, so far as they are indicated in the *Pioneer*, relate to matters other than those noticed above. Government is therefore asked to consider the matters noticed above. A rule should also be made permitting prisoners of respectable classes to supply themselves with food at their own cost. This will save Government much money, and at the same time be an act of mercy to the class of prisoners concerned.

(d)—Education.

12. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 9th February, refers to the article in the *Bangavasi* newspaper headed "gain and loss from English education" (see R. N. P. for week ending 13th February, paragraph 19), and observes as follows:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 9th, 1892.

In the course of the article referred to, the *Bangavasi* comes to the conclusions that a knowledge of the English language is not necessary for obtaining livelihood, that it is not very profitable, that it has a tendency to injure the character of its recipients, and that if it is at all necessary, in this country, to acquire that knowledge, those acquiring it should also be taught their own religion as a means of counteracting the evil influences of the former.

1. As regards the first conclusion, that a knowledge of English is not necessary in this country for the purpose of obtaining a livelihood, the writer must say that it is contradicted by everyday experience. People now-a-days cannot do without a knowledge of English. English-knowing men are now sought for even in zemindari establishments. And the very porters in the streets find a knowledge of English indispensable. People engaged in trade and manufacture must also know English.

2. The second conclusion that a knowledge of the English language is not very profitable, is not also true. There is much in English literature, in English history and in the works on science written in that language which a man can study with profit. Aye, the attempts which are now being made in this country to improve its condition, literature, &c., are themselves the results of English education. In fact, English education has done much good to this country, and it is not at all advisable to try to prevent its extension.

3. As regards the third conclusion that English education has a tendency to produce an injurious effect on the moral character of its recipients, this is not necessarily the case. There are men who, though they have received a thorough English education, are yet free from the defects with which that education is generally found associated. These men are devoted to their own religion, country and people, and jealously guard their natural manners and customs. That many English-knowing men often become denationalised is because they receive an exclusive English education in the schools. At school boys read only

English to the exclusion of their national language and literature. No moral or religious instruction of any kind is imparted to them either at school or at home, and they affect anglicised manners and customs without being rebuked by their teachers and guardians. This is the reason why most of the boys receiving English education become immoral and denationalised in manners, customs, and feelings. But this result can hardly be laid at the door of English education.

4. The writer approves of the *Bangavasi's* last conclusion, that at school boys should be instructed in their national religion as a means of counteracting the evil consequences of English education.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 10th, 1892.

13. The *Sahachar*, of the 10th February, says that some of the questions in the literature papers set at the last Entrance examination were very stiff, and the Bengali passage set for translation into English in one of those papers ought to have been easier and simpler.

Questions set at the last Entrance examination.

SUDHAKAR,
Feb. 12th, 1892.

14. The *Sudhakar*, of the 12th February, says that there is a large number of Mussalman students receiving English education in Calcutta. Indeed, such students are to be found in every English School and College in Calcutta, excepting the Metropolitan Institution and the Sanskrit College. But there is no suitable boarding-house for them in the town. The boarding-house attached to the Calcutta Madrassa possesses accommodation only for a small number of students, and the excellent new boarding-house for students is by reason of the high fees charged therein inaccessible to Mussulman students. This want of a suitable boarding-house in Calcutta is a great obstacle in the way of the English education of Mussulman boys from the mofussil. Few parents can afford to board their children in a house rented exclusively for their own use. Again, in a place so full of temptations as Calcutta, it is hardly safe to let young people live in messing houses. Black sheep are to be found in every one of these messes, and they infect the whole flock.

Boarding-houses for Mussulman students in Calcutta.

If there be a suitable boarding-house for Mussulman students, all these disadvantages will be at an end. Now, for the situation of a boarding-house. The writer has experienced the evil which results to Mussulman students from reading in private schools. The best school for Mussulman students to read in is the Madrassa. The Calcutta Madrassa is situated in the southern part of the town, and the respectable Mussulman community in Calcutta also reside in localities in that part of the town, such as Mehedibag, Collinga, Taltolla. A boarding-house for Mussulman students should therefore be in this part of the town. If it be possible to establish two boarding-houses in Calcutta, the other may be established at Mirzapur. If suitable boarding-houses are established, many Mussulman students will come flocking to the town from the mofussil.

It will not be impracticable to establish a boarding-house for Mussulman students as good as the Eden Hindu Hostel if only the rich among the Mussulmans attend to the matter. The boarding-house must have as its Superintendent an able and energetic man like Maulvi Abdul Huq Abed, B.A.

Even if the public or the rich do not take up the work, any able and enterprising man may make a handsome profit by establishing such a boarding by way of speculation.

This will require no greater capital than Rs. 2,000, and if such a speculator can secure 50 or 60 boarders, and charges them Rs. 8 and Rs. 10, he will easily be able to make a monthly profit of Rs. 100.

PRAKRITI,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

15. The *Prakriti*, of the 13th February, refers to the prosecution at the Calcutta Police Court of Haradhan Das *alias* Rakhal Das Ghose by Mr. Nash, Registrar of the Calcutta University, and remarks as follows:—

Though the case is still *sub-judice*, the writer does not think it improper to say one word about it. Like Mr. Marsden, the writer also cannot approve of the action of Mr. Nash in this case. Apart from all questions of law, supposing the boy was guilty, it was in the power of Mr. Nash to punish him adequately. But instead of doing that, he has given evidence of a revengeful

disposition by handing the boy over to the Police, and for this, if for nothing else, that the writer cannot help blaming Mr. Nash.

16. The same paper is glad that its criticisms have at last succeeded in drawing the attention of the authorities to the selection of text-books by the Central Text-Book Committee. But the notice which has been issued

The Central Text-Book Committee.

in this connection in the *Calcutta Gazette* is of a most unpractical character, and it will, if it continues to be published for any length of time, destroy before long the good name of the Director of Public Instruction. In this notice "*all persons interested in the subject*" are invited to communicate with the Text-Book Committee, stating what books they consider open to objection, and specifying the particular passages or portions to which they object." But it is, without doubt, the duty of the Central Text-Book Committee to select good text-books, and not to deliver judgment after reading applications, examining witnesses and hearing pleaders. Does the Director think that the members of the Committee are incapable of doing their duty impartially? If not, why has he asked the general public to do the work which is entrusted to it? Again, the expression "*all persons interested in the subject*" has no meaning, inasmuch as there is hardly a man in Bengal who is not interested in the selection of good text-books. There are, again, 45,000 schools in Bengal, and if the teachers of every one of these schools were to write letters taking exception to particular books, would not the correspondence be a very heavy one, and would not the time spent in going through it be much longer than that which will be required to go through the books themselves? Besides, the invitation contained in the notice will, in many cases, induce envious people to malign good books and give an opportunity to authors to abuse one another in secret. People criticising the books have been asked to state the edition of the book criticised. The Director of Public Instruction does not perhaps know the amount of fraud which is practised in the bazar in this connection. Sometimes the edition of a book which is sold in the bazar is different from the edition which has been submitted to the Text-Book Committee. And as the list of text-books prepared by the Committee does not, in all cases, name the editions selected, people purchase whatever edition they get in the bazar. Again, as there are books which, though they have gone through several editions, are yet full of errors, it will be improper to cease criticising a book simply because it has gone through several editions.

17. The *Sanjivani*, of the 13th February, thinks it very desirable that drawing should be taught in the schools, as it would be good mental culture for boys, and may open up a new avenue of living to many of them. But the writer cannot approve of the proposal to make it a compulsory subject at the Entrance Examination.

Drawing at the Entrance Examination.

18. Referring to the circumstance of the mathematics papers at the last Entrance Examination having transpired before the examination, the same paper says that the question is being considered whether there should be a re-examination. And if the University authorities decide on a re-examination, the candidates will undoubtedly be greatly inconvenienced. So much for the mathematics papers. As for the other papers, though they did not transpire, there are serious objections against them. In the Sanskrit paper there were three *slokas* about which nothing was asked. A large number of candidates, in their despair to make out the examiner's intention, explained them, and thus wasted a portion of their valuable time which might have been devoted to a better use. Moderators are employed by the University at a great cost, but here is a proof of the way in which they do their work.

In the English grammar paper the candidates were asked to "illustrate the various usage, &c." Should not "usage" have been "usages"? Such a mistake in the grammar paper, even if owing to the printer's devil, is unpardonable. In the English literature paper too there were several questions framed in bad English, and some of them were too difficult for Entrance candidates. To require Entrance candidates to answer questions relating to English metre shows only the stupidity of the examiner.

The questions in the Arabic paper were couched in such hard English that it was difficult even for the most intelligent students to divine their meaning. There would have been no difficulty if the questions on Arabic grammar

PRABHATI,
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had been asked in the language of that grammar instead of in the language of Latin Grammar, as the examiner did.

In the Bengali paper, given to the candidates for translation into English, one sees very queer Bengali. Is not “তৃণাকীর্ণ সমতল ক্ষেত্রে অনেক গুলি মে চরিতেছিল” terrible Bengali? To begin with the chaste expression “তৃণাকীর্ণ সমতল ক্ষেত্র” and end with the vulgar “চরিতেছিল?” In another place is found:—

“সেই অখম্মর শুভর ভাবী দিনের বিষয় গান করিতে লাগিল”

Again:—“যাহা তোমার খাওয়ার পক্ষে যথেষ্ট মিষ্ট নহে বলিয়া তুমি কেলিয়া দাও, আমি তাহা পাইলেই খুঁী হয়.” Could not the University have upheld its prestige without importing such queer Bengali into the examination papers? When will examination scandals come to an end?

SOM PRAKASH,
Feb. 15th, 1892.

19. The *Som Prakash*, of the 15th February, says that the proposed re-examination of the Entrance candidates will cause great hardship to them, specially to those who have to come to Calcutta from the mofussil in order to be examined. The authorities should institute a searching enquiry into the cause of the present examination scandal.

Re-examination of Entrance candidates.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Administration.

PRATIKAR,
Feb. 5th, 1892.

20. Referring to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* statement that votes for the ensuing municipal election in Calcutta are being canvassed for by native ladies, the *Pratihar*, of the 5th February, says that it does not like self-government of this kind. That respectable native ladies should go about canvassing for votes is quite a ludicrous idea, and bodes evil in the future. The power-loving people who have adopted this course in order to be elected to municipal commissionerships will, no doubt, have to repent of their folly hereafter.

Lady canvassers in Calcutta.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Feb. 8th, 1892.

21. Referring to the opinion expressed in certain quarters that, considering the very objectionable practices which are resorted to for success at the elections, local self-government must be said to have been prematurely introduced into the country, the *Dacca Gazette*, of the 8th February, says that human nature will always remain the same. Before the introduction of the elective system, seekers after municipal honour had to offer their ovations to the officials, and now the gift of municipal commissionerships having been transferred to the masses, every effort is being made to please the latter. This is the whole difference between nomination and election.

As for the objection that under the elective system able candidates are often baffled by unworthy men, all that the writer can say is that the same thing often occurred under the nomination system.

22. The *Sahachar*, of the 10th February, has learnt that in certain cases great misunderstanding has arisen between Magistrates of districts and the Chairmen of some of the mofussil Municipalities. Magistrates are generally men of ability. But there are among them many who are not satisfied unless all their measures are approved and all their suggestions are carried out. And when the Chairman of a Municipality cannot see his way to carry out all the suggestions of a magistrate of this type, misunderstanding necessarily arises between the two. It is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will, after due enquiry, take steps to put an end to this friction between Magistrates and Chairmen of Municipalities.

Misunderstanding between Magistrates and the Chairmen of Municipalities.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 10th, 1892.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

23. Referring to the appointment by Government of Mr. Fiddian, Magistrate of Howrah, to the Chairmanship of the local Municipality on the recommendation of the majority of the Commissioners, the *Sanjivani*, of the 13th February, says that the Howrah Municipality should hide its face for very shame when it could not find a man among its numerous educated and able rate-payers to fill the seat of its Chairman. How will Howrah, after this, show

The Chairmanship of the Howrah Municipality.

its blackened face to the world? Party feeling and jealousy will not probably have done its work till it had brought about the ruin of the Bengali race. Has then education done only this for the Bengalis? Is selfishness so strong in the Bengali nature that it cannot concede a jot for the public good?

24. Referring to the case recently brought in the Police Court by Babu Nabin Chand Bural against the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality, the same paper says that it has been more astonished at Mr. Lee's conduct in connection with this case than surprised at the novelty of the case itself. Why was Mr. Lee so partial to Mr. McGuire while he refused to enlist Babu Nabin Chand's name as a candidate for a Municipal Commissionership, notwithstanding the latter's eligibility? Babu Nabin Chand is an independent native gentleman, and it is men like him in the Corporation who opposed the proposal to give Mr. Lee a house allowance, whereas Mr. McGuire, with all his faults, is an Englishman. Is it for this difference that Mr. Lee refused to give Babu Nabin Chand the opportunity of becoming a Municipal Commissioner? However, now that the Babu has been declared eligible for a Commissionership, it is hoped that the native rate-payers of Ward No. 12 will one and all give him their votes. The conduct of Mr. Lee in connection with this case has been very culpable indeed.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

25. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 18th February, has the following:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 18th, 1892.

The rulers of India will never forget their mercantile instincts. Government will henceforward itself supply the supply of Municipal bills by house-rate bills of the Calcutta Municipality. What Government. does this change mean? Has not Government given self-government to the Municipality? If so, why prevent it from getting its bills printed at a cheaper rate at private printing establishments? These municipal bills are not promissory notes or Government securities that they must be printed at the Government Press. To which of its favourites does Government wish to show favour by this act?

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

26. A correspondent, of the *Charuvarta*, of the 18th February, says that recently Baboo Kishorimohan Chowdhry, a zemindar of Sherpore, in the Mymensingh district, went to make a tour of his zemindari in order to observe the condition of his raiyats. The result of his tour was that he granted Rs. 105 for an embankment in Khalisakuri, and a sum of money for the construction of a house for the Yugania pathsala, and advised the raiyats of that village, which consists entirely of low-lands and is therefore unfit for the cultivation of paddy, to take to the cultivation of wheat, and even promised them seeds of that grain and exemption from rent for the first year of their enterprise. In several villages the Baboo was sorry to observe the apathy of both his Hindu and Mahomedan subjects in matters of religion, and encouraged them by every means in his power to celebrate their respective religious festivals. In order to baffle the tanners, who secretly poison cattle for the sake of their hide, Baboo Kishorimohan advised his raiyats to bury the carcasses of cattle which were killed in this fashion. Tours like the one which was undertaken by Baboo Kishorimohan are absolutely necessary for every zemindar. The more a zemindar observes the condition of his raiyats with his own eyes, and the more he exerts himself to remove their wants and grievances, the stronger will be the tie of good feeling between him and them. And there is no denying that such a tie will conduce to the good of both.

CHARUVARTA,
Feb. 18th, 1892.

27. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 14th February, is glad to learn that the Indian Association proposes to hold a meeting at the Town Hall to protest against the proposed cadastral survey. The Behar Landholders' Association has sent to the Secretary of State its protest against that survey. But the more the people are protesting, the greater is becoming the Government's *zid*. Such is always the case in India.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 14th, 1892.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 10th, 1892.

28. The *Sahachar*, of the 10th February, says that recently a native fireman, while attempting to leap into the engine of a moving train at the Naihati station on the Eastern Bengal Railway line, fell under the train, and got his legs under the knee crushed. His life would probably have been saved if he had been promptly carried to a hospital. But his removal to the Campbell Hospital, Calcutta, did not take place until five hours after the accident. When there, he was so exhausted through bleeding that the doctor did not dare to amputate his legs, and he died during the course of the night. Is there no hospital near Kanchrapara, near Naihati? There is a native doctor at the Naihati station, and did this man attend on the wounded fireman? If so, why did he not send him to Calcutta promptly? The European Station-master of Naihati is guilty of great dilatoriness in the matter.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

Assault upon two officers of the Public Works Department by an Uriya.

29. The *Bangavasi*, of the 13th February, has the following:—

Gopinath Parijha, an Uriya, has been sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for having assaulted Messrs. Butler and Barlow, of the Irrigation Branch, Public Works Department. But the writer thinks that an enquiry ought to be made why a timid, cowardly Uriya proceeded to the length of using violence towards two European officials. That there is a limit to patience under oppression, is a historic truth. And the public will be glad to hear that the Gopinath affair had nothing to do with this truth.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 18th, 1892.

30. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 18th February, has an article headed "Famine in consequence of railway extension."

in the course of which the following remarks are made:—

The very heading of the article will surprise English officials and excite the anger of non-official Englishmen, and induce English merchants to bring a charge of sedition against the writer. Possibly some shortsighted Babu will also abuse him for it. But the writer will not say in the course of the article anything about railway extension in India, and will confine his remarks to the consequences of railway extension in Russia. According to eminent Russian economists, the present famine in Russia is due to railway extension in that country. Count Tolosti, who was Home Secretary to the Russian Government in 1882, and whose knowledge of the condition of his own country is equalled by very few of his countrymen, said to Reuter's correspondent now travelling in Russia that he could prove by means of unanswerable arguments that it was the railways that had brought ruin on his country. This view is endorsed by many other Russians possessing an intimate knowledge of their own country. It may be said here that if railway extension is the cause of famine, why is not the same cause followed by the same effect in America? To this it may be replied that there can be no comparison in this respect between America and any country in the old world. America is a newly discovered European State, where the quantity of uncultivated land is still practically unlimited. To take the case of the United States, its area is six times the area of India, while its population is about one-fourth of that of India. And in the United States the quantity of new land is still unlimited. Its indigenous races are well nigh extinct, while the increase of population among the European races keeps pace with the increase of wealth among them. This being the case, the exportation of food-grains in consequence of railway extension has up to this time produced no bad effect there. But the case is different with an old country like Russia, where the quantity of new land is not unlimited and the indigenous races have not died out. This being the case, railway extension there, by facilitating the exportation of food-grains, is impoverishing the people, and becoming the cause of frequent outbreaks of famine. Such is also the case in India. Here railway extension is being followed by exportation of food-grains in increased quantities. In Russia, merchants are in the habit of producing and collecting corn in places connected by railways. Such is also the case in India, where English mercantile firms are visible in almost all such places. Of all Indian corns, wheat is the one which is exported to England and other countries in the largest quantities. So all wheat-producing

centres are visited by English merchants, who make advances of money to ryots, and induce them to grow only wheat and other exportable food-grains on all lands fit for cultivation. There is no gainsaying the fact that railways are giving greater facilities to the exportation of food-grains from India day by day.

(h)—General.

31. The *Sansodhini*, of the 5th February, agrees with Mr. Manisty in thinking that the *chapkan* and *choga* will be too expensive a dress for clerks. Mr. Manisty is of opinion that any decent dress, say a *chapkan* and a *pagree* (head dress), will do well for them.

SANSODHINI,
Feb. 5th, 1892.

The Bengal Administration
Report for 1891.

Report for 1891:—

1. In the Burdwan Division, the number of chowkidars in possession of chakran lands is 31,214, and according to the report most of them are worthless men. Government has proposed to resume these chakran lands, and in lieu thereof to pay salaries to the chowkidars. But this will lead to an increase of taxation without conferring any corresponding benefit on the people. It can hardly be supposed that chowkidars when paid by salary will be more dutiful than they are now. Even now, by exercising proper supervision over them, they can be made to do their duty properly and well. The proposed measure will therefore benefit none but Government and the zemindars, while it will injure the people by increasing their burden of taxation.

2. The smallness of the number of convictions in sessions cases has displeased the Lieutenant-Governor, who has, therefore, directed Assistant Superintendents of Police to conduct prosecutions in the Courts of Magistrates and Sessions Judges. At present, prosecutions in those courts are conducted by Government pleaders, who will henceforward be superseded by men possessing no regular legal training. And considering that the defence now often engages pleaders and barristers, the result of the proposed change will be very unsatisfactory; while the prosecution will lose much of its prestige in the eyes of the public. As Inspectors of Police have often better legal knowledge than Assistant Superintendents of Police, the duty of conducting prosecutions should rather be entrusted to them than to the latter.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 9th, 1892.

33. The *Sahachar*, of the 10th February, has the following:—Government in this country is doing its best to enforce vaccination among the people. But the question has, in the meantime, been raised by medical men in England and Europe as to whether or not vaccination really possesses the preventive virtue it is credited with. Many answer this question in the negative. As a matter of fact, vaccination has not checked mortality from small-pox in this country. The mortuary returns of Calcutta show that deaths from that disease are not rare in this city. Last year the disease raged in an epidemic form there, and carried off a large number of people. Though inoculation was in a good many cases followed by fever, which laid up the patients for a month or so, it was a guarantee against all future attacks of small-pox. But the case is not so with vaccination, as people vaccinated have been found to be attacked with small-pox again and again. There are also difficulties in the way of vaccination. Good lymph can not always be obtained. Even when obtained, it is apt to lose its virtue when kept long unused. There is danger in arm to arm vaccination, as children vaccinated with lymph taken from a child of syphilitic parents are apt to contract syphilis and other diseases. To vaccinate with lymph taken directly from the cow is also attended with danger, inasmuch as the person so vaccinated is apt to get asthma, consumption, &c. Again, the vaccinators are generally illiterate men not possessing the least medical knowledge, and often perform their duty in a very bungling fashion. The writer fears that vaccination has not been attended with the desired effect, and thinks that inoculation should be re-introduced. It has already been re-introduced in Russia, and no one says that it has been attended with bad results.

SAHACHAR
Feb. 10th, 1892.

SUDHAKAR,
Feb. 12th, 1892.

33. The *Sudhakar*, of the 12th February, says that Bengal has not had for a long time such an able and energetic Governor as Sir Charles Elliott. He is not fond of luxury like the other Governors. He is inspecting mofussil courts and offices with a care, which even a District Magistrate does not display at the time of inspecting the offices in his district. The writer is very glad to hear the Lieutenant-Governor praised on all sides. He is touring through the Presidency in all seasons of the year. Everybody is charmed with these good traits in the character of the Lieutenant-Governor. It is hoped that His Honour will look to the condition of the Mussulmans, who are now sunk in the lowest depth of degradation. The Mussulmans in their present state of degradation are fit objects of pity on the part of Government. Even Hindus, it is hoped, will probably sympathise with them in their present distress.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

34. Referring to the Embankments Resolution of the Bengal Government, the *Bangavasi*, of the 13th February, says that there is no indication in the Resolution of the present policy of Government in regard to embankments. The public wish to know the reason why the western embankment of the Damodar river has been removed, causing incalculable hardship to the raiyats on that bank of the river, and why the dilapidated embankments in the Nuddea district are not being repaired. It would be impossible to criticise Government's embankment policy without knowing all this. Government does not always give an explanation of its actions, but its policy is always indicated in its resolutions. The writer is therefore sorry not to find such an indication of its policy in the present Resolution.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

35. The *Sanjivani*, of the 13th February, says that, though Government is interfering in all sorts of small matters, such as abolishing the graded system for clerks, and is even reducing the number of pencils and quills used by each clerk in an office, with the view of retrenchment of expenditure, yet it never shows the least unwillingness to create big posts for Europeans. On the one hand it will strain at a cowrie on the other, it will take no heed of thousands flowing out of the exchequer. A new post called the Director of Surveys in Bengal is about to be created in connection with the cadastral survey and Colonel Sandeman will be the first incumbent. This is not statesmanship, but some how or other providing for Englishmen. Does Government mean to reduce its expenditure in this way?

SARASWAT PATRA,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

36. The *Saraswat Patra*, of the 13th February, says that a report is going the round of the press to the effect that the Lieutenant-Governor has come to know that many of the district officers give no rent or give only a nominal rent for the houses which they occupy. The writer does not know how far this is true. But many people know that several of these officers do not pay anything to their house-owners on the excuse that they spend the amount of the rent payable by them in making repairs. And no house-owner can be bold enough to proceed against the head of the district when he makes such an excuse. Now that Government is making an enquiry into the matter, the truth will, no doubt, be out.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.
Feb. 15th, 1892.

37. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 15th February, says that, as most of the Bengali names are of Sanskrit origin, a knowledge of Sanskrit is indispensable for correctly transliterating those names into English. Professor Wilson and Sir William Jones knew Sanskrit, and therefore succeeded to some extent in correctly transliterating Bengali names. But their system was not faultless. Nor is Sir William Hunter's attempt in this direction free from defects. When the Hon'ble Whitley Stokes was Law Member he wanted to transliterate into English a large number of the names of villages and towns in some of the Bengal districts. At the advice of Mr. Tawney, the task was entrusted to the writer, and he accordingly prepared a list containing what the writer believes was a correct transliteration of Bengali names. It is not known what use has been made of that list. The transliteration of Bengali names into English is not an easy thing, and so the writer is not surprised to find a large number of errors in the recently published official list showing the transliteration of Bengali

names. As the Lieutenant-Governor is anxious to have a correct list, the writer points out the following mistakes in the second of the two lists published in the Gazette:—

Official spelling.

Ajai.
Tamluk.
Rupnarain.
Satkhira.
Krishnagar.
Nadia.
Dakhin Shabaz, &c.
Darbhanga.
Motihari.
Lakhisarai.
Purnea.
Gobindpur.

Correct spelling.

Ajay.
Tamoluk.
Rupnarayan.
Satkshira.
Krishnanagar.
Nadiya.
Dakshin, &c.
Dwarbhanga.
Matihari.
Lakshmisarai.
Purniya.
Govindpur.

The writer points out these errors simply because the names in the above list are professed to be spelt on the scientific system. If there had not been this profession, he would not have minded the errors, as he know very well that English officials can never correctly transliterate Bengali names into English. The circular regarding the correct transliteration of Bengali names will be a great difficulty in the way of those who are unacquainted with Bengali and Sanskrit. Again, as the circular is of a binding character, why was not the correct system of transliteration adopted? If the above errors are admitted to be such, an attempt should be made to correct them.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

33. The *Sahachar*, of the 10th February, has the following on the amended Municipal Bill:—

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 10th, 1892.

Sir Charles Elliott has endeared himself to the people by some of the opening acts of his administration, and the public believe that he will act in accordance with the spirit of the times and with a due regard to the condition of the country. His Honour, indeed, made a promise to that effect at the time when he was installed in office. Up to this time he has given no cause for apprehension in the minds of the public. But his new Municipal Bill, the writer must say, has caused fear and anxiety. Though a Tory, Lord Salisbury said, in rejecting the demands of the Congress for elected Legislative Councils, that once conceded, it would be impossible to withdraw the elective franchise. Tory or no Tory, Lord Salisbury is a khas Englishman, and full of English instincts, and knows well what the duties and the powers of an English statesman are. But the case is different with the rulers of India. They have repeatedly violated the English principle of not withdrawing a right once conceded. For instance, they twice took away the liberty of the press. It is for this reason that the people of this country are not sure of the rights and privileges which they enjoy. Government hopes that the people will have unlimited confidence in it, but it, nevertheless, does not hesitate to deprive them, from time to time, of rights and privileges which it itself conferred on them. It is this uncertainty regarding the rights and privileges of the people that has led the Congress to demand the elective principle.

Government now proposes in the new Municipal Bill to take away from the Municipalities the little favour which was conferred on them by Act III of 1884. The new Bill has been framed on the lines of the Punjab Municipal law. Sir Charles Elliott has, from his youth, served outside of Bengal, and does not consequently possess much knowledge of this province. It is, therefore, natural that, like other Anglo-Indian officials, he should like the Punjab system of municipal government. But Bengal is not the same as the Punjab, and while legislating for Bengal, it behoves Sir Charles to remember the remark of Napoleon III, "when in Algeria I consider myself King of the Arabs." Sir Charles is the ruler of Bengal, and will therefore have to take into consideration the condition of the Bengalis and their political views. In his recent resolution on the working of the Municipalities His Honour makes the admission that, speaking generally, the Commissioners have done their work well. And he yet has

nevertheless proposes in the new Bill changes of a most objectionable character. He says that in some places the Commissioners under-assessed themselves and their friends and relations at the expense of the bulk of the rate-payers. But it may be asked here, *en passant*, has not the same thing been done in Calcutta under the new Municipal Act of Sir Henry Harrison, by under-assessing Europeans living in rented houses at the expense of native house-owners? There is *daladali* in the mofussil, and it may be that in some places the Commissioners have acted in the way described by His Honour. But then the Lieutenant-Governor is not sure on this point, for he only says that a charge to that effect has been brought against the Commissioners in some places. The writer can, however, certify that the spirit of *daladali* is gradually decreasing in the mofussil, and the Commissioners are gradually coming to realise the duties of their office and are acting accordingly. But supposing what the Lieutenant Governor says about them to be true, is it proper to take away from them the power of assessing municipal rates, as has been proposed in the new Bill? It has been proposed in that Bill that if, after examining the assessment list of a Municipality, the Magistrate considers it inadequate, he should ask the Commissioners to amend it, and if the latter do not act according to his wish, he should send an assessor at the cost of the municipality to reassess the rates. There can be no greater indiscretion than this. Does Government want to make Magistrates Turkish Pashas? In Turkey, the Tehsildar sends to the Pasha an account of the revenue assessed, the Pasha rejects it saying—"not properly done, what shall we get after sending money to Stamboul?" The Tehsildar then revises the assessment according to the wish of the Pasha. Does Government wish the same thing to be done here? The Magistrate has no knowledge of the pecuniary capacity of the people, and will consequently fix the assessments by guess. And the result will be oppression of the people and their distrust of the Magistrate. Now, the people of this country look upon the Magistrate as their protector, but if what is proposed in the Bill is carried into effect, they will come to regard him as a *rapacious* and cruel man. Under these circumstances, no really competent and respectable people will accept Commissionerships, and the object with which local self-government was introduced into this country by Lord Ripon will be frustrated. The proposal in question should, therefore, be abandoned by the Lieutenant-Governor, unless it be His Honour's object to ruin the present system of self-government in the country. Does not Government admit that the amount now collected in the shape of taxes is larger than what was collected under the Chairmanship of Magistrates? Government does not now allow the first and the second class municipalities to elect their own Chairmen, but it has, under the law, the power to grant them the privilege. But the new Bill proposes to empower Government to take away, if necessary, the right of electing Chairmen from such municipalities as now enjoy it. This is certainly a retrograde step and opposed to Lord Salisbury's interpretation of the principles of the English constitution, viz., that a right once conceded cannot be taken back. Even now a large amount of power is left in the hands of Government. Even when people elect their own Chairmen, the election must be confirmed by Government. Is this not sufficient guarantee? Another proposal made in the Bill, namely, that the election of Vice-Chairmen by Municipalities should be confirmed by Government, is also very objectionable. The people are obliged to Sir Charles Elliott in many matters, but there is such a thing as throwing a drop of cow-urine into a jar full of milk and thereby spoiling the whole of its contents.

NAVAYUGA.
Feb. 11th, 1892.

39. The *Navayuga*, of the 11th February, is glad that Government has appointed Babu Ganes Chandra Chandra a member of the Bengal Council in place of the Hon'ble Dr. Rasbehari Ghose. Babu Ganes Chandra is a man of ability and well versed in the law. By appointing him to a membership of the Council the Lieutenant-Governor has given evidence of sound judgment.

SAMAY,
Feb. 12th 1892.

40. The *Samay*, of the 12th February, is glad to learn that Government has nominated the able attorney, Babu Ganes Chandra Chandra, to fill up the vacancy in the Bengal Council caused by the elevation of the Hon'ble Dr. Rasbehari Ghose to the Supreme Legislative Council.

41. The same paper says that as polygamy is permitted neither by the Hindu or by the Mahomedan religious code, a law should be passed putting down the practice, except in cases where it is permitted by those codes. There will be much opposition in the country if a law is passed prohibiting all British subjects from taking a second wife in the life-time of the first. But if a law is passed prohibiting people from taking more than one wife in contravention of the injunction of the sastras, no such consequence is likely to take place. A list taken from the *Sanjivani* newspaper, and containing the names and addresses and the age of some notorious polygamists in Bengal is given.

NAVAYUGA,
Feb. 11th, 1892.

42. Referring to the proposed amendment of the Bengal Municipal Act, the *Banganivasi*, of the 12th February, has the following:—

BANGANIVASI,
Feb. 12th, 1892.

There is a marked contrast between the working of Municipalities before the inauguration of the Self-Government scheme and their working since. Formerly the District Magistrate, or the Sub-divisional Officer, as the Chairman of the Municipality, was all in all there. He assessed taxes according to his own whim, and expended municipal money as seemed to him best, for the Municipal Commissioners, who were all his own nominees, hardly dared to oppose him in any matter. This officer stayed for the most part at head-quarters, and had therefore little opportunity of becoming acquainted with the wants and grievances of the people. And even when these were brought to his notice by the Commissioners, it was seldom that he listened to their representations. But now each Municipality is divided into wards, and Municipal Commissioners are elected for each ward by the rate-payers, and the Chairmen and the Vice-Chairmen of the Municipalities are elected by the Commissioners themselves. So the Commissioners are under obligation to the rate-payers and the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to the Commissioners. It is needless to say that under these circumstances the municipal bodies must be anxious to look after the interests of their constituents, the rate-payers. But there is no unalloyed good in the world, and these municipal bodies on their part are not perfect institutions. Indeed, this is an impossibility so long as there is selfishness in human nature. But it would be sheer stupidity to abolish the self-government system altogether because its working has been bad here and there. The writer has been closely watching the working of Municipalities under the elective system for the last nine or ten years, and is thoroughly convinced that under it the work of local improvement has been carried on in a most satisfactory manner, and that the system ought therefore to be given a wider scope. Those who hold a different view are enemies of the country. Government itself has admitted that since the introduction of the elective system it has worked admirably. And it was its satisfactory working which induced Sir Steuart Bayley to express a wish to introduce it more largely into this province. Nor did His Honour remain content with simply expressing a wish to this effect, but pressed the Government of India to give it a wider scope. Sir Steuart's proposal, however, was not carried into effect owing to the Supreme Government's unwillingness to give its assent to it. However that may be, Sir Steuart's proposal serves as a very high certificate in favour of Local Self-Government in this province. It is, therefore, difficult to understand why Sir Charles Elliott's regime should set about placing restraints upon it. It is quite inexplicable, too, why certain native editors should secretly support His Honour in this business. However, it is re-assuring to find that the Indian Association has already come forward with a timely protest against this most ill-advised action of Government.

The writer never said that the elective system is a perfect system. But balancing its good with its evil, the good will surely be found to outweigh the evil. The strict supervision of local affairs which is now observed in the mofussil Municipalities is due solely to the elective system and to the practice of appointing non-official Chairmen. The Municipalities are now always on their alert to remove the wants and grievances of the people. Suppose a plague breaks out in any place; the Municipality at once adopts measures to check it. Suppose the people of some place are in need of water; the Municipality does its best to supply the want. Suppose there are no good drains in a place; the Municipality at once sets about constructing them.

Above all, the taxes are now assessed with due regard to the circumstances of the assesseees. Thus, under the elective system, the people are no longer ground down under the burden of taxation. Only two years ago, when a night soil tax was about to be imposed in a Suburban Municipality, the Commissioners for the poorer wards objected to it on the ground that most of the rate-payers in these wards had no privies attached to their houses, and could, on no account, be made liable to the tax. The result was that those rate-payers were exempted from liability to the impost. This was possible only on account of the elective system. It is in view of such benefits which the rate-payers have hitherto enjoyed under the elective system that the writer has been alarmed at the proposal to narrow the scope of local self-government, and strongly protests against it. The small measure of local self-government that has been doled out to the people of this country has also served the purpose of giving them the rudiments of political education. In fact, it was to this end that Lord Ripon introduced it into this country. But the people who were staunch advocates of it under Lord Ripon appear to have turned their coats, and are now censuring it, saying that local self-government has made itself a farce in this country. It is true that here and there it has been reduced to a farce through the fault of the officials, but there cannot be the least doubt that a further development of it will be of great good to the country. Every one should therefore be careful that Government does not lay the axe at its root. People need not be disheartened at the disappointing talk of stupid people.

Sir Charles Elliott is requested not to make any change in the law without personally enquiring in the minutest manner into its working in this province. Perhaps His Honour was not before personally familiar with this province; and his bad-advisers have therefore taken this opportunity of inducing him to act according to their own wish. It is hoped, however, that the Lieutenant-Governor will turn a deaf ear to their counsels.

PRAKRITI,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

Babu Ganes Chandra Chandra
in the Bengal Council.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

Babu Ganes Chandra Chandra
as a member of the Bengal
Council.

GRAMVASI,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

lative Council.

43. The *Prakriti*, of the 13th February, refers to Babu Ganes Chandra Chandra's appointment to the Bengal Council, and says that the public will now be glad to see him give evidence of independence of character.

44. The *Bangavasi*, of the 13th February, approves of the nomination of Babu Ganes Chandra Chandra to the vacant seat in the Bengal Legislative Council.

45. The *Gramvasi*, of the 15th February, is alarmed by the provisions in the new Municipal Bill relating to (1) the raising of the pecuniary qualification for the voting right, (2) the appointment of the Vice-Chairman, (3) the withdrawal of the power of assessment from the hands of the Commissioners, and (4) the exclusion of Municipal Commissioners from the right of electing their Chairman. Self-government is doomed if these provisions are given effect to.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

NAVAYUGA,
Feb. 11th, 1892

Prospect of famine.

46. The *Navayuga*, of the 11th February, has the following :—The news of scarcity which the writer is receiving every day from different parts of the country is causing him serious alarm. It is stupefying to think even now of the famine in Madras, while the thought of the unprecedented scarcity in Orissa is still disquieting. The writer does not know what is in store for the people this year, does not know how many hundreds of people will die of starvation this time; how many women will lose their husbands; how many villages and towns will be filled with human skeletons; and in how many houses will heart-rending wails of lamentation be heard. Formerly famine used to occur from time to time, now-a-days it has become almost an everyday occurrence. The people of India now suffer from scarcity every day, cry for food every day, and there is disorder and disturbance in every Indian household. To go with one meal or to live on half a meal are things unknown or rarely known among people of other countries; but they are among things which are every day talked of in this country. Here people living on half a meal count by hundreds and thousands, while a few deaths from starvation are daily taking place in different

parts of the country. It looks as if the lives of the Indians have no value. Like cats and dogs the people of India are found dead on the fields and upon roads and in all manner of places in consequence of starvation or insufficient nourishment. It seems there is hardly another people in this world whose lives are so much undervalued and so little taken care of. O terrible famine, is it for this reason that you have made this country your iternal sporting ground?

The writer next gives an account of the prospects of the crops in different parts of the country, and makes the following remarks:—

It is clear from the above account that all India will be consumed in the fire of famine this year. Famine has already broken out in different places. Hundreds and thousands of people in Bengal, Bombay, Madras, the North-Western Provinces, &c., will die of starvation. Government is the protector of the life and property of its subjects, and the writer hopes that the liberal English Raj will take steps to save their lives in this emergency. It is probably an early apprehension of famine that has induced Government to amend its Famine Code. It is the belief of the writer that people will not have to suffer much from scarcity if the new Code is properly worked in practice. But as the English Raj does not always act in accordance with the laws it frames, people have to put up with many wants and inconveniences. Considering, however, that death from starvation is the greatest misfortune that can befall man, the English Government will in all probability act in accordance with its new Famine Code on the present occasion.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
Feb. 12th, 1892.

47. The *Education Gazette*, of the 12th February, says that people are apprehending famine this year. Even the *Pioneer* and other papers are not without such fear. Government also is not without anxiety, and is taking precautionary measures, such as the amendment of the Famine Code, &c. Scarcity is sure to be checked to a great extent if the measures proposed by Government are properly carried out in practice. But no good or adequate result is likely to be gained so long as the exportation of food-grains, which is one of the chief obstacles in the way of satisfactorily dealing with a famine, is not stopped.

48. A correspondent of the *Sudhakar*, of the 12th February, writing from Chengti Munshipara in Julpiguri says that scarcity prevails in that part of the country, and that the people cannot afford even one meal in the day. God seems to be bent on depopulating the world. Golden India will be ruined if Government does not relieve the people in the present distress.

SUDHAKAR,
Feb. 12th, 1892.

49. The *Prakriti*, of the 13th February, has the following:—

It is a matter of deep regret that Englishmen, who are so anxious to lend a helping hand to the famine-stricken people of Russia, are perfectly indifferent in the matter of removing the distress of their Indian fellow-subjects. This year sure signs of an approaching famine, due to a failure of rainfall, are visible in all parts of India, and there is wailing and lamentation on all sides. The writer as well as some friends of India in England asked Government to take precautionary measures beforehand. The public still remember what Mr. Caine said on the subject. But Mr. Caine was then freely abused and called a liar by Lord Wenlock, who denied that there was any apprehension of famine in Madras. But where are His Lordship's assurances and frowns now? For, is it not a fact that famine is assuming a more and more severe aspect in Madras? Government itself is in fear, and some of the newspapers in England are tauntingly putting questions to Lord Wenlock. The matter is worse still in Bombay. There it is scarcity both of food and water, and people are leaving their homesteads, and cattle are selling at one anna per head. The condition of Rajputana and Central India is not hopeful; that of Burma and Bengal is also deplorable. And Government has already realised the necessity of opening relief works in Bhagulpur, Purnea, and Mongyr, and relief works will be opened in Gya, Mozufferpur, and Durbhanga, from the commencement of the month of March. The condition of Bengal can be very well imagined from this, and the self-same Government, which is in the habit of denying the existence of famine even when famine actually makes its appearance, and consequently refuses to help the people, is now voluntarily opening relief operations. This shows that scarcity of an unusually severe character prevails in the country. The writer has received alarming news

PRAKRITI,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

from different places, and famine in a fearful form will soon break out in various places in Bengal. But there is time yet, and Government should be ready in time to meet the emergency, for it will incur grave sin and earn a bad name for itself if through its negligence in rendering help a single man dies of starvation.

SARASWAT PATRA,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

50. The *Saraswat Patra*, of the 13th February, deprecates the idea of constructing new railway lines as relief works during the impending famine in Northern Bengal and Behar. The writer suggests that the starving population may well be employed in bringing jungly lands under cultivation and in generally improving the agricultural resources of the country. New tanks and canals may also be excavated where wanted. And in places where none of the foregoing plans are capable of execution, the people may be employed in constructing drains and village roads. The Lieutenant-Governor himself has admitted that the large decrease of population in the 24-Pergunnahs and the Burdwan districts is due to the ravages of malaria, which can only be checked by the construction of good drains. And this is a most fitting opportunity for getting drains constructed in several places at a small cost. It is hoped Government will take these suggestions into consideration.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 14th, 1892.

51. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 14th February, says that scarcity has made its appearance in many parts of the Bengal Presidency—nay, there are reasons to believe that in places like Monghyr and Bhagulpore there is famine in the sense attached to that term in the Famine Code. According to the Famine Code there is scarcity in a place whenever there is a rise of 20 per cent. in the price of food-grains. The price of food-grains has increased everywhere in Bengal. There has been a general rise of 30 or 40 per cent. in the price of food-grains, and in some places there has been a rise of even 50 per cent. It is clear from the statement of prices of food-grains published in the *Calcutta Gazette* that the prices are very high. It is clear even from these statements that the prices have become scarcity prices, but the price at which rice is actually selling is higher than that given in the statements, and has, indeed, become famine price. And this is the case so soon after the new harvest! When the rice becomes old, its price will rise higher, and will become Rs. 5 per maund.

The prospect of the wheat crop is also not good. Government expects an eight-anna outturn of wheat. But a six-anna outturn would be a safer estimate. The prospects of the other crops, such as barley *jawar* and *marua*, are also not good.

Famine has not appeared all on a sudden this time, nor simultaneously in all parts of the country. It appeared first in Madras, then in Rajputana, and then in Bombay. It will now extend to other parts of the country. But in spite of such warning, no adequate precautionary measures have been adopted. If the Governor of Madras had adopted proper precautions from the first, the famine in that province would not have assumed such severity. The Governor of Madras has now profited by experience, and the Governor of Bombay by example. It is to be hoped that other Governors too have girded up their loins to put an end to the famine. The public should be informed of the relief arrangements in order that they may not lose heart in this time of danger.

Government should reduce expenditure in other directions, and attend only to the relief of distress. No good will result from relying solely upon the efforts of the District and Local Boards for such relief. All unnecessary expenditure should be put a stop to in all departments. The tour expenses of all officers, high and low, should be reduced as far as possible. No Governor should go this year to the hills. There is nothing to object to the tour of the Lieutenant-Governor, but he should not make the tour with such pomp and with so many attendants. The money which will be wasted on the Viceroy's hunting excursion to Cooch Behar should be appropriated to the purpose of relieving distress. All Russian officials have given up luxury on account of the famine in their country, and the people of India may naturally be displeased to find the Viceroy acting otherwise.

There will be no harm if the review of troops is not held this year. It is foolish to think that the nonholding of the review for one year will impair the efficiency of the army. No committees and commissions should

be appointed. The tours of all officials whose tours are not absolutely necessary for the safety of the empire should be stopped. New buildings should not be erected for any office or court, and buildings already commenced should not be proceeded with. Relief work should not be provided for the people by undertaking railways which will never prove profitable, but by undertaking works which will really prove useful to them. Scarcity of water adds to the sufferings from famine. Tanks should therefore be excavated or re-excavated in places where they are needed. No great work should be undertaken.

The zemindars should be left in a position to help their distressed ryots. It is certain that the levying of the land revenue will not be deferred. But pressure should not be put upon them for the payment of the road and public works cesses. The ryots of the khas mehals also should not be pressed for the payment of revenue.

The raising of all subscriptions except that for the relief of famine should be stopped. The raising of subscriptions for the Lady Dufferin Fund and the Lady Roberts Fund should be stopped. The zemindars have to pay many subscriptions, or they incur the displeasure of the officials. They should not be pressed for subscriptions in this year of distress.

Rich men too should attend to the relief of distress. Instead of spending money on Congresses and Conferences they should spend money for the relief of distress. A part of the fund in the hands of every association should also be devoted to the same purpose. They should also give up luxury like the rich men of Russia. This will have a very good moral effect on the officials.

Any concealment of the real state of things will now do great harm. This is why the writer has been so outspoken.

52. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 18th February, says that at Gya coarse rice is selling at 10 seers and fine rice at 9 seers per rupee. The prices of other grains, such as wheat, pulses, &c., have increased very much. Gur (jaggery) alone is cheap. Poor people in many villages in the district have left their homes and gone elsewhere. Cattle will die for want of fodder. The heat of the sun is abnormal. No attempt to relieve the distress is visible. But let the people fare never so bad, they must pay all kinds of taxes to the utmost farthing.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 18th, 1892.

VI — MISCELLANEOUS.

Cause of frequent famines.

53. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 8th February, has the following:—

DACCA GAZETTE,
Feb. 8th, 1892.

Who can say what the crooked course of time will bring about? India, which was one day the granary of the whole world, is to-day consumed by the slow fire of famine; the country which one day supplied whole Europe with her rice and flour is now filled with the deafening cry "food, food" issuing from her children. There is no water in the tank, but there is flood in the desert. This, indeed, is a sight which no one witnessed before, nor is ever likely to behold. But in India, the play-ground of nature, even impossibility, becomes possibility.

Scarcity prevails everywhere, and there is no knowing to what extremities men may be driven by hunger. Every one knows of the Benares riot. According to many the demolition of the temple was only an ostensible pretext, the real cause of the affray being dearth of food—a very probable theory; at least, one which ought to be well considered before it is dismissed. Famine has now become a frequent occurrence in India, and it behoves the Government to enquire into the cause of this. It cannot, of course, be said that famine was not at all known before the English occupation of the country. But the visitation then occurred at intervals of forty or fifty years, and was due to natural causes. There is great difference between these visitations and those which occur now-a-days: the former were due to failure of crops, while the latter are due to want of money. In the famines of past times rice was not to be had at any price, but in those of the present the chief question is want of money, and one can have any quantity of food provided one can pay for it.

The writer thinks that foreign export is the chief cause of these frequent visitations of famine in the present time. England is now getting her rice and

wheat at a much cheaper price than some years back, while the prices of those articles are rising every day in this country. Experience has proved that free-trade is not applicable to India. And the stopping of it is the only remedy for the sufferings of her people.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
Feb. 10th, 1892.

54. Referring to the havoc which is being committed by a tiger in Arani and some adjacent villages in the Rajshahye district (see R. N. P. for week ending the 6th February 1892, paragraph 41), the *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 10th February, says that the animal has not yet been killed either by the District Magistrate or by the Raja of Nattore, both of whom went in search of it, and that it is still killing men and cattle.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 10th, 1892.

The volunteering cry.

55. The *Sahachar*, of the 10th February, has the following:—

Volunteers! Volunteers! the cry is now for volunteers. The writer is at a loss to see—nay, he cannot conceive—why the importance of this class of soldiers has increased so much of a sudden. Is the cry for volunteers meant as a reply to the demands of the Congress? But the Congress only asked for a few political rights in a submissive spirit. The native princes have not given any cause for uneasiness. Famine is raging in Russia, and the Government of Russia is short of money. Those who understand military matters say that the arming of the Russian soldiers with the new rifle is not yet complete. Nor is Russia prepared for war. The cry is, nevertheless, for volunteers. Who knows what this means? Well, let them have as many volunteers as can be had.

NAVAYUGA,
Feb. 11th, 1892.

The Lady Roberts Fund.

56. The *Navayuga*, of the 11th February, has the following regarding the Lady Roberts Fund:—

The object of this fund is to secure a trained body of European nurses, and the Rajas and Maharajas of India are subscribing to this fund with the same liberality with which they subscribed to the Lady Dufferin Fund. Lady Dufferin collected large sums from the people of this country, and thereby devised a new means of livelihood for her countrywomen. In the same way Lady Roberts is trying to do a service to her countrywomen. Their efforts in this direction are certainly very natural and laudable. It is the worthless good-for-nothing people of this country, who do not know how to make a proper use of their money and who therefore subscribe to such funds, that are most to blame.

MURSHIDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
Feb. 12th, 1892.

57. The *Murshidabad Pratinidhi*, of the 12th February, says:—It has been commanded by the Queen-Empress that a Bengali translation of her letter acknowledging the expressions of sympathy by Her subjects at the death of the late Prince Albert Victor should be published in all the vernacular papers. With great pleasure we obey the command of Her Majesty and publish a translation of the letter. From the letter of our sorrow-stricken Mother it will be clearly seen how great is the grief which this domestic calamity has caused Her. In Her old age she has experienced many calamities. But such is Her love for her subjects that even when she is drowned in an ocean of grief She is not indifferent to the welfare of Her subjects. Her Majesty's kindness and affection have so endeared Her to Her subjects that they feel her present bereavement as if it were their own and all are at heart sorry for it. We pray to God that peace may soon be restored to the hearts of the distressed parents and the Queen.

The Queen's acknowledgment of condolence.

translation of her letter acknowledging the expressions of sympathy by Her subjects at the death of

SULABH DAINIK,
Feb. 12th, 1892.

The Queen's acknowledgment of condolence.

58. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 12th February, publishes, at the desire of the Queen-Empress and at the request of the Government of Bengal, a Bengali translation of Her Majesty's letter acknowledging the expressions of sympathy by Her subjects on the death of Prince Albert Victor.

SULABH DAINIK.

59. The same paper requests the founder of the bathing ghât close to Juggernath Ghât in Calcutta to make separate arrangements for the bathing of disreputable women, and not to allow them to bathe along with respectable Hindu women, for their contact may prove injurious to the latter.

The bathing ghât close to Juggernath Ghât.

SUDHAKAR,
Feb. 12th, 1892.

60. The *Sudhakar*, of the 12th February, denies that the Bengalis are a nation of cowards, and relates the heroic exploits of certain Mussalmans of Bengal. One still hears of the bravery of the Mussulman *lathias* headed by

The bravery of Bengal Mussulmans.

Panju Sardar in the affray between Raja Kalinarain Roy, of Bhawal, and the indigo-planter, Mr. Wise. It was only the other day that some Mussulman robbers confined in the Burrisal jail attacked the jail guards, and got out in spite of their having handcuffs and lejcuffs on. These prisoners had at last to be shot down, and they did not fall down till they had been struck with four or five shots. Idilpur, Dakshin Shabajpur, Binodpur, Mandartali, Kutubpur, Guakhola, Charmandari, Dhania Kachia, and a hundred other villages are still famous for their Mussulman *sardars* and *lathials*. These heroes do not shoot or hurl arms from afar, but fight face to face with the enemy. The harsh administration of the English Government has made such display of heroism a dangerous game. But the fiery blood of these men boil at the least scent of affray, and they rush to onset with undaunted hearts. Even European soldiers must yield to them in point of valour and prowess.

A few years ago an affray took place between two powerful zemindars of Dacca about a *chur* in the Padma. One of the zemindars had stationed nearly 400 or 500 *lathials* on the *chur*. The other zemindar sent a large number of *lathials* by boat with the famous Fazil Sardar at their head. When their boat reached the middle of the river both the parties raised a war cry. The war cry of the enemy set the blood of Fazil on fire. His fierce and angry looks at that time filled every spectator with alarm. His soul seemed to thirst for the hot blood in the enemy's heart. As soon as the boat neared the *chur*, Fazil leaped from the boat with the aid of his long bamboo club to a distance of about 15 cubits. But as ill-luck would have it he sank up to his waist in the loose earth. He struggled hard to get free, but to no purpose. A sardar of the opposite party hurled a javelin, which entered Fazil's entrails and came out at his back. The wounded hero roared like a lion making the sands and the waters ring against and again. But profuse bleeding soon deprived him of all strength, and he fell asleep like a true hero on the bosom of that mountain of mud. Reader! will you not call this Fazil a hero?

61. The same paper publishes, as requested, a Bengali translation of the Queen's letter acknowledging expressions of sympathy by Her subjects on the occasion of the death of Prince Albert Victor.

SUDHAKAR,
Feb. 12th, 1892.

62. The *Hitakari*, of the 12th February, publishes with great pleasure a Bengali translation of the letter of the Queen-Empress acknowledging the expressions of sympathy by Her subjects on the death of Prince Albert Victor.

HITAKARI,
Feb. 12th, 1892.

63. The same paper learns from a reliable source that the people of Tangail in Mymensingh are desirous of perpetuating the memory of the late Prince Albert Victor by founding a technical school in that sub-division. The writer wishes heartily that the noble project may be carried out, and that the name of Prince Albert Victor rendered immortal in India thereby.

HITAKARI.

64. The same paper says that though the Presidency Commissioner, the District Collector and the Civil Surgeon have spoken highly of the Kushtea Charitable Dispensary after an inspection of it, none of them has made any provision for its improvement. The dispensary is supported solely by the District Municipality. But the Municipality is not so rich as to be able to meet all its expenses in an efficient manner. As there is no other dispensary in the locality it ought to receive sufficient aid from the District Board. But the Board has declined to grant any aid on the plea of shortness of funds.

HITAKARI.

65. The *Samay*, of the 12th February, says that it published in due time the purport of the letter which the Queen-Empress wrote in reply to the letters of condolence received on the occasion of Prince Albert Victor's death. Government has since furnished it with an official Bengali translation of the same, which, though not couched in pure Bengali, is published at the request of Government.

SAMAY,
Feb. 12th, 1892.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

66. The *Samvad Prabhakar*, of the 13th February, publishes, the official Bengali translation of the letter of the Queen-Empress acknowledging the expressions of sympathy by Her subjects on the death of Prince Albert Victor.

SARASWAT PATRA,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

67. The *Saraswat Patra*, of the 13th February, says that Her Majesty the Queen-Empress having commanded that translations of her letter acknowledging the expressions of sympathy by her subjects on the death of the late Prince Albert Victor should be published in the vernacular papers, the Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal has sent to this paper a Bengali translation of the same. "With humble submission to the command of our most worshipful Mother the Empress, and with the most heartfelt loyalty and affection for Her Majesty, we publish the letter below, which is calculated to touch the heart and draw tears to the eyes of all who will read it. It is a gratification to us to know that the sympathy expressed by her poor and humble subjects served to give Her Majesty consolation, however little, in this her bereavement."

SARASWAT PATRA.

68. The same paper says that the priest of a certain Hindu temple at Rajahmundry, in the Madras Presidency, has represented to the Governor that a European official desecrated the image of the god by kicking it down and assaulted the priests of the god. The priest has pointed out that the temple was built by municipal permission, and that the image was also placed by such permission. Probably the Government will enquire into the truth of the allegations. If they turn out to be true, then there is no knowing what things men, who can place their foot on an image worshipped by human beings, cannot be capable of. If the charges are proved, it is hoped that Government will deal with the perpetrator of this Kalapahar deed as he deserves.

SARASWAT PATRA,

69. The same paper has an article on the subject of colonisation by Indians, in which the writer says that before sending the Indians to Foreign British Colonies as an outlet for the increasing population of the country, Government should induce them to remove to such places within India itself as are fertile but have not yet been brought under the plough. It cannot be denied that India still contains such tracts of country in great abundance; and if they are brought under cultivation, it will be long before the fast increasing population of the country will have to starve or cross over the seas to foreign lands for the establishment of colonies.

PRAKRITI,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

70. The *Prakriti*, of the 13th February, publishes in a paragraph with black borders the official translation of Queen's letter in reply to letters of condolence received on the occasion of the death of Prince Albert Victor, and says that every line of it breathes sorrow for the departed Prince and love for her subjects.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

71. The *Sanjivani*, of the 13th February, says that the volunteers who reside in Annarkali in Lahore have been ordered to muster on their drilling ground as soon as notice of danger is given them, and those residing in Donald Town have been similarly ordered to muster at Baring Cross. The forts on the North-Western Frontier have been fortified, troops and ammunition have been collected at Rawalpindi, and men of war have been brought into the Bay of Bengal. What do these preparations mean? The public are quite in the dark as to the cause of them. All that they can guess therefrom is that some danger, some war, is imminent, but they do not know what steps have been adopted for the defence of the country.

SANJIVANI.

72. Referring to the enquiry which is being made into the case of the man who was recently wounded at Seorajpore, near Allahabad, by a shot fired by some soldiers, the same paper says that the result of the enquiry is a foregone conclusion. The soldiers will continue to fire their shots, and the natives, of course, will have to live in the country. Cannot then some means be discovered to save the natives from shots fired by soldiers? In no other country, not even in England, the home of Englishmen, do such accidents occur so often.

73. The same paper says that Her Majesty has replied in English to the condolence expressed by the Indians on the death of Prince Albert Victor. A Bengali translation of it supplied by the Government is published.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

74. The same paper has an article relating to the case of the cooly girl Churki (see R. N. P. for week ending 6th February 1892, paragraph 37), headed "Is not this tea-garden a hell?" in which the writer says:—

SANJIVANI.

The papers relating to this case are full of narratives of terrible occurrences. The manager of the garden has already kept a cooly woman named Rayiah under his protection. The brother of this woman has, through her favour, secured the post of bearer to the Saheb. The brutal instincts of the manager were not, however, satiated by violating the modesty of Rayiah alone. He had also beaten a girl named Kanu into submission to his evil purposes, and adopted the same course in regard to the girl Churki, when Heaven intervened, and the sinner has been brought to justice.

The writer then gives the depositions of the witnesses examined in the course of Walling's trial, and says that after reading these terrible depositions, no one can feel disposed to call the tea-garden anything but a veritable hell. When will these hells be abolished, and poor men and women saved from the hands of *rakshasas*?

75. The *Bangavasi*, of the 13th February, has the following:—

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

Water scarcity in the 24-Pergunnahs.

Many places in Bengal are suffering from scarcity of water. Not to speak of places in the far interior, complaints of water-scarcity are coming even from places near Calcutta. Nowragram is a big village in the Paighati pergunnah of the 24-Pergunnahs district, inhabited by a large number of respectable as well as low-class people; the rivers and canals in the village having all dried up, not a single outlet for drainage water has been left open. Cultivation, too, has become quite impossible for want of rain. The people are already suffering not only from scarcity of food, but also from scarcity of water. The villagers made over to the District Board a tank of their own, in the hope that the Board would re-excavate it, but they have been disappointed. The District Board may yet, if it condescend, remove the water scarcity to a great extent. It ought to take pity on the suffering people. The state of things is not a bit better in several other villages within the same pergunnah.

BANGAVASI.

76. The same paper says that the other day, at the eighth anniversary of the Sobha Bazar Benevolent Society, Sir Charles Elliott complimented Kumar Benoy Krishna Deb on his efforts in the cause of the agitation about Hindus visiting England. Of course, there is nothing strange in this, considering that His Honour is an English Christian. But the matter has grieved the writer. The Kumar Bahadur was a staunch Hindu in the Consent Bill affair, and perhaps incurred the displeasure of the officials for his opposition to the Bill. But it would be a matter of regret if he has to make atonement for his past sin by giving support to the present movement. Babu Pramathanath of Naldanga became a Raja by agitating for a short time in favour of widow re-marriage, and the writer will have nothing to say if the Kumar Bahadur is actuated by a similar motive in posing as a supporter of the sea-voyage movement. But whatever the Kumar's motive may be, the writer cannot approve of his action, nor the Lieutenant-Governor's praise of it.

As for the Benevolent Society, the writer has always praised the good that is being done by it, and will never deny that the Society is doing really good work. But the writer's feelings have been wounded by some remarks which fell on the occasion from the Lieutenant-Governor. The Lieutenant-Governor almost distinctly said that the Society was a novel institution in this country, being formed on the European model, and that the manner of working of the Society was very different from the ordinary procedure of charity in this country. His Honour may also be interpreted to have said that the European mode of charity was better than the native mode, and that the Kumar Bahadur had done well by adopting the European mode. The writer must say in reply to this what he has so

long refrained from saying simply out of delicacy. The Hindu does not consider it charity, or at the best considers it charity of the most inferior kind to give anything away by holding committees and societies, and with a flousish of trumpets. In spite of the boast of other nations for charity, the writer can hardly think that there is any better form of charity than the *mushti-bhiksha* of the Hindus. The writer is sorry to have to say all this, but he does not think it right that the strong remarks of the Lieutenant-Governor should be allowed to pass uncontradicted.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

The Queen's reply to the letters
of condolence.

77. The same paper publishes the official Bengali translation of the Queen's reply to the expressions of

condolence.

BANGAVASI

78. The same paper has an article headed "The laden boat is about to sink," in which it says:—

Foreign goods.

Just open your eyes and see what a ruin has befallen the country! Not to speak of whole India, consider the case of Bengal alone. In the Bengal Administration Report for 1890-91, it is said that during the year under report Calcutta alone imported foreign cloth to the extent of 14½ crores of rupees, metal ware worth 2¼ crores, mineral oil worth 1¼ crores, machinery, &c., worth 81¼ lakhs, woollen fabrics worth 75 lakhs, sugar worth 62 lakhs, salt worth 59 lakhs and wine worth 74¼ lakhs. Of the entire amount spent by Calcutta on imported articles, fifty-six per cent. went to purchase cloth alone. This is for Calcutta alone. As for the whole province, in 1889-90 it imported foreign goods to the extent of Rs. 31,56,52,561, and in 1890-91 the amount rose to Rs. 35,81,68,090.

It was thought that by the grace of God the habits of thinking of the people of this country had begun to change. But the statement given above of the trade of the country dispels all such hope. Not to speak of machinery, &c., who would not think that the country is on the verge of ruin when it has had to import even cloth, salt and sugar in such enormous quantities?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA
Feb. 14th 1892.

79. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 14th February, is very glad to hear that a descendant of the Moghul Emperors who was living at Benares under surveillance has died.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Feb. 14th, 1892.

80. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 14th February, publishes, at the request of the Government, the official translation of the Queen's reply to the letters of condolence.

SAMAJ-O-SAHITYA,
Feb. 14th, 1892.

81. The *Samaj-o-Sahitya*, of the 14th February, publishes the official Bengali translation of the letter of the Queen Empress acknowledging the expressions of sympathy by Her subjects on the death of Prince Albert Victor. Even at an hour of such affliction, Her Majesty's love for Her subjects and desire for their welfare are clearly felt in every line of the letter.

GRAMVASI,
Feb. 15th, 1892

82. The *Gramvasi*, of the 15th February, thanks Government for its having supplied it with a copy of the official translation of the Queen's reply to the letters of condolence. It has, however, already published a translation of its own.

SOM PRAKASH,
Feb. 15th, 1892.

83. The *Som Prakash*, of the 15th February, publishes the official Bengali translation of the letter which Her Majesty the Queen has written in reply to the letters of condolence which were received by Her on the occasion of the death of Prince Albert Victor.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 15th, 1892.

The Queen's reply to the letters
of condolence.

84. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 15th February, has the following:—

Even when she was deeply moved by the death of Prince Albert Victor, Her Imperial Majesty the Queen could not forget her spontaneous love for her subjects. She found consolation in the thought that all classes of her subjects were sympathising with her in her affliction. The letter which she wrote at the time to her Home Secretary was translated into Bengali by the writer and published in the issue of this paper for 31st January. The letter opened the floodgates of loyalty in the heart of the writer, and his translation was a perfectly spontaneous act. The letter has since been translated at the Bengal Secretariat, and a copy of it sent to this paper for publication. The official

translation is accordingly published. Then follow the official translation, the writer's own translation, and the following remarks:—

If loyalty had not restrained the writer, and if it had not been improper to find fault with the acts of the officials at this time of mourning, the writer would undoubtedly have said that the Queen's letter has been marred in the translation. The readers of the official translation of course see that in consequence of the numerous faults in it and such foolish combinations of words as '*svabhab susil chhilar*' the pathetic letter of the Queen has been given a ludicrous character. Be that as it may, the object which the officials have in view is worthy of praise.

85. The same paper says that on arriving in Cooch Behar, Lord Lansdowne will be joined by Lady Lansdowne. The writer had thought that as the Maharani of Cooch Behar was laid up in bed, and would be unable to

be present at the hunting, Lady Lansdowne, out of respect for her, would not also be present thereat. But he now sees that he was mistaken in this.

86. The *Sulabh Duinik*, of the 16th February, learns that a shop-keeper in Bombay was prosecuted by a missionary for keeping a picture of "Jashoda suckling her infant child Sreekrishna," which the latter thought to be

obscene, and was fined Rs. 10. If this sacred picture of the baby Krishna be obscene, then why should not the picture of the semi-naked adult Christ on the cross be considered obscene. The writer thinks that an appeal should be preferred against the decision of the Deputy Magistrate. The whole Hindu community should rise against such an un-Hindu decision.

87. Referring to the Madoorie tea-garden case, the *Duinik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 16th February, says that Mr. Walling is a young man who lives a single life

in the garden. The writer has always pointed out that oppressions in tea-gardens will not abate, and consequently the stigma attached to the name of the tea-planter will not be removed until respectable married men are appointed in charge of them. It is the planters themselves whose interests are concerned in this matter, and they should not continue to overlook the question. Everybody knows, and above all the planters should know, that the English Government will on no account allow the American slave trade to be introduced into this country. In British territory, and under British justice, Manager Walling has been punished, and whoever is caught red-handed like him will be punished. The tea-planters should make it a point to appoint only respectable married men as managers of their gardens. If they fail in this, the public will throw the blame of all oppressions in their gardens on them.

URIYA PAPERS.

88. All the papers of Orissa express regret at the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence and Avondale. Some of them are still in mourning. The expressions of their sorrow are couched in loyal and sympathetic terms.

89. The *Utkaldipika*, of the 23rd January, foresees scarcity of food in the Orissa Division in the near future. And the *Uriya and Navasamvad*, of the 13th January, advises the

stoppage of export of rice from Orissa for a short period.

90. Relying upon a statement of its own correspondent, the *Samvad-vahika*, of the 14th January, points out that the arrangements made for vaccinating children in the Simlia out-post of the Balasore district are defective, and that a proper number of vaccinators should work in the interior of that district in order to achieve the desired result. Considering that inoculation has been prohibited by law, vaccination ought to take its place in a successful manner, else the health of the people in that district must always remain in danger.

91. The same paper draws the attention of the police to a village named Birua, near Balasore, where a large number of professional thieves are said to reside.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 15th, 1892.

SULABH DAINIK,
Feb. 16th 1892.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 16th, 1892.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Jan. 23rd 1892.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
Jan. 14th 1892.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
Feb. 13th, 1892.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Jan. 27th, 1892.

92. Referring to the late circular order of Government directing the use of black choga and chapkan by officers in civil employ in Bengal, the *Uriya and Navasamvad*, of the 27th January, points out that it would be intolerable to wear a black dress in the summer season, and suggests that white choga and chapkan may be used in that season of the year.

The dress circular.

93. All the Native papers of Orissa make favourable notice of a monthly magazine named *Asha* that is being edited by a Uriya Magazine edited by a Uriya lady an Uriya lady named Srimati Reba Rai, and observe that this is the first instance of a periodical being conducted by a Native lady in Orissa.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Jan. 23rd, 1892.

94. The *Utkaldipika*, of the 23rd January, is glad to find that the smoking of opium on the premises has been prohibited by a general order of the Government of India, and is of opinion that the people of India ought to be thankful to Lord Lansdowne for this order.

Opium-smoking.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Jan. 23rd, 1892.

95. The Jajpur correspondent of the *Utkaldipika*, of the 23rd January, states that the lower subordinates of the Settlement and Survey Offices, while measuring the holdings of poor ryots in that sub-division, carry away fruits and vegetables forcibly from their orchards against their will, and administer sound beating to those that object to their illegal action.

Oppression of ryots by the lower employes of the Settlement and Survey Officers in Orissa.

96. All the Native papers of Orissa bitterly mourn the death of Pundit Ajodhyanath, a respectable pleader of the North-Western Provinces Bar, and a leading member of the Indian National Congress, and observe that it would be hard to replace the deceased.

The late Pundit Ajodhyanath.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Jan. 30th, 1892.

97. The *Utkaldipika*, of the 30th January, and its contemporaries, find great pleasure in giving detailed accounts of meetings that were held in Cuttack and Balasore to convey expressions of sympathy and sorrow to Her Imperial Majesty the Queen-Empress in her present bereavement.

Condolence meetings in Cuttack and Balasore.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Jan. 30th, 1892.

98. The *Utkaldipika*, of the 30th January, and the *Samvadvalika*, of the 4th February, observe, in connection with the recent circular of Government on the subject of the office dress of native officers and amla in civil employ, that they may be allowed to wear white or black chogas and chapkans according as they choose. The former approves of the order of the Cuttack Collector, exempting all ministerial officers drawing salaries less than Rs. 50 per mensem and serving under him from wearing chogas on the ground of their comparative poverty. The *Utkaldipika* further approves of that declaration of Mr. Toynbee, the Commissioner of the Orissa Division, whereby he decides that the order of Government on the dress question does not apply to those amlas in Orissa who use the old costume and appear in public in *dhoti*, *chapkan* and *pag*, which are as decent and cheap as can be devised for gentlemen of their situation.

The Dress Circular.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
Feb. 4th, 1892.

99. The *Samvadvalika*, of the 4th February, again brings the subject of scarcity of food in the near future in Orissa prominently before the public, and advises the Rajas and zemindars of Orissa to exert all their influence in the direction of stopping all export of rice from Orissa till the next harvest, and thereby follow the wise and honourable example of the feudatory chieftains of some of the Central Provinces as reported in the *Sumbulpur Hitaishini* of Bamra in that Province.

The imminent scarcity.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
Feb. 4th, 1892
AND
UTKALDIPIKA,
Feb. 6th, 1892.

100. The same paper and its contemporary of the *Utkaldipika*, of the 6th February, are sorry to say that the subscriptions and donations raised up to date on account of the repair of the Puri Temple have come up only to Rs. 37,180, whereas three and a half lakhs more are required under the revised estimate to complete the works. They therefore exhort all Hindus in India to come forward liberally to protect an institution, which is not only religious and national, but is also artistic, grand and glorious.

Repairs of the Puri Temple.

101. With reference to the proceedings of the Settlement Officers in Orissa, the *Utkaldipika*, of the 30th January, points out that those officers have asked the zemindars to fill up lengthy and cumbrous forms which they cannot do without the assistance of facts and figures drawn from the papers of the last settlement; but as most of the zemindars are not in possession of such facts and figures, they are put to the ruinous cost of procuring them from the Collector's record-room. The writer does not understand the utility or desirability of asking zemindars to supply figures which the Settlement Officers can themselves procure from the Collector's office. In his opinion, a zemindar is not bound to supply figures of which he is not in possession, and is, therefore, not liable to pay any fine that may be imposed on account of any delay that may accrue from that cause. Should the zemindars be compelled to supply such figures, they ought to have the benefit of procuring them free of charge from the mahafizkhana of the Collector.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Jan. 30th, 1892.

102. In referring to the Orissa tour programme of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the *Utkaldipika*, of the 6th February, observes that His Honour has hardly any time for rest, and that His Honour takes pains to understand and examine things personally, which was never the case with His Honour's predecessors, for which the people of the country ought to be extremely thankful.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Feb. 6th, 1892.

ASSAM PAPERS.

103. The *Paridarshak*, of the 12th February, publishes, at the request of the Government of Bengal, a Bengali translation of the letter of the Queen-Empress acknowledging the expressions of sympathy by Her subjects on the death of His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor.

PARIDARSHAK,
Feb. 12th, 1892.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 20th February 1892.

